

PLAIN TALKS

August 1985

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A collage illustration for the August 1985 issue of "PLAIN TALKS". The central element is a large, open notebook. On the left page, there's a photo of two women in front of a fountain, a small photo of a person, and a large "IDA" stamp. On the right page, there's a photo of a woman in a red telephone booth, a large "HAWAII" stamp, and a "PASSPORT" stamp. A large camera is at the bottom left, and a telephone handset is on the right. The background has a city skyline and a tree.

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CONTENTS

Volume 64

Number 7

News briefs	4
Daily variety sparks McCrosky's work	6
Baton Rouge employees display artistic flair	7
Management audit	8
Wish you were here!	10
Service awards	12
On the move	13
New life at Louisiana Station	14
Inside GSU	16
Retiree update	18
Land sailing provides family fun	19

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Employees who change residences or offices should fill out company mailing-address-change forms (GSU0012-00-81) and return them to the mailroom in the Edison Plaza. GSU publications, departmental mailings and other company information are not automatically forwarded; addresses must be corrected when employees move.

Church grateful

Mr. Tom Kelly
Gulf States Utilities
Orange, Texas

Dear Mr. Kelly,

We very much appreciate your prompt attention on the matter of removing the tree in front of our church. Not only has this remedied a safety concern but also has made our building more attractive.

Thank you again for a job well done and may God bless you and your crew.

Sincerely,
Larry Henry
Chairman of Property
and Maintenance
Church of the Nazarene

Green Berets salute GSU

Lannis L. Tynes
Gulf States Utilities
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tynes:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the invaluable assistance you furnished this command in our strategic Special Operations training exercise. The electrical power grid blueprint you provided was a much-needed asset in the overall contingency planning and execution process. After inquiries to several national agencies and sources, Sgt. Matthews was able to obtain from your office the only blueprint that answered some of our most critical intelligence requirements.

Again, your invaluable time and assistance is greatly appreciated by the United States Army "Green Berets."

Sincerely,
Lyman B. Kirkpatrick
Lieutenant Colonel, General Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff,
Intelligence

Editor's note: Lannis Tynes is supervisor-engineering design/Louisiana.

Smith volunteers

Walter McMorris
Gulf States Utilities
Baton Rouge, La.

Dear Mr. McMorris,

We have just completed a successful camping season at Camp Marydale near St. Francisville. For the first time in 36 years, we were faced with a security problem. Throughout the summer, there was evidence of prowlers in the units where the girls were staying.

With the excellent cooperation of the West Feliciana Sheriff's Department, the Dixon Correctional Institute, the game wardens from the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries and many volunteers in the community, we were able to apprehend the prowlers, who proved to be harmless.

We are very grateful for this tremendous cooperation from all the law enforcement agencies in the community.

Ron Smith, who works for you, was one of the volunteers who gave generously of his time to help us. His attitude and commitment to correct a potentially dangerous situation was exemplary. We appreciate very much all he did for us.

Sincerely,
Margaret Jo Borland
President,
Audubon Girl Scout Council

Editor's note: Ron Smith is a district serviceman-1st class in St. Francisville.

Grubbs: safety expertise

Mr. Ron McKenzie
Gulf States Utilities
Port Arthur, Texas

Dear Mr. McKenzie,

Please express our sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. R.L. Grubbs who helped make our Family Safety Night, on May 13, 1985, an overwhelming success. He is to be commended for his expertise in the field of home and work-related safety, pertaining to electrical hazards. Thanks again for your assistance and for a tremendous effort by Mr. Grubbs.

Sincerely,
Gerald Thibodeaux
Southwestern Bell Telephone
Groves
Quality of Work Life Committee

Project CARE helps

Gulf States Utilities
Port Allen, Louisiana

Gentlemen:

I have added \$1 to my bill to aid the aged. I think it's a nice way to try and help the aged. They really do need help in a world with such high costs of living as we live in. I know how hard it is for us, and my husband works. I commend you on this thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Stanley A. LeJeune
Plaquemine, La.

THE COVER

Vacation time, an employee benefit often taken for granted, is popular during summer months. Some GSUsers share their vacation memories in a feature beginning on page 10.

Employee dies in Lake Charles

Robert E. Tyler, 56, of Sulphur died May 10 in a Lake Charles hospital. Tyler was a serviceman-1st class in Sulphur, and had been employed at Gulf States for over 36 years. He was a Marine veteran of World War II.

His survivors include his wife, Tommy Lou Tyler; three daughters, Nancy Veronie and Leah Brock, both of Sulphur, and Marcia Martin of West Lake; one son, Robert Earl Tyler Jr. of West Lake; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.C. "Jake" Tyler Sr. of Sulphur; two sisters, Myrtle Latimer and Jean Robertson, both of Sulphur; three brothers, J.C. Tyler Jr. of Sulphur, Douglas R. Tyler of Lake Charles and Kenneth L. Tyler of Carlyss; and five grandchildren.



Port Arthur Division: Rufus Mier, superintendent of marketing and consumer services in Port Arthur, presents \$25 Energy Gift Certificates to Ruth Brewer, Mrs. James Lynch, Debi Pigg and Norene Nunez. The ladies won the certificates at the GSU Energy Fair held at Central Mall in May.



Joe Rowe (left) assists Manuel Montalvo, equipment operator at



Sabine Station, as they prepare to descend.. Photos by Cheryl Crawford.



Nelson Coal employees complete rescue training

Several Nelson Coal employees completed a 5-day structural rescue training course held at the plant in May. Among those employees awarded a certificate of completion from Lamar University were Ron Armistead;

Milton Castille, both fuel handling operators; Ralph Crosby, utility worker I; Kathy Dawsey, fuel handling operator; Mark Degenhardt, fuel handling foreman; Dan Paris, repairman-3rd class; Joe Rowe, electrician-1st

class; and Melvin Wilks, store-room assistant.

Under the direction of Mark Degenhardt, the team assisted in a jump from the fly ash silo, which is approximately 120 feet.

Two employees earn lifesaving awards

Last February, Jim Jones, Joe Pickart and others were eating lunch together when Pickart began to choke on a piece of meat. He was unable to speak or breathe until Jones used the Heimlich maneuver and dislodged the food. Then Pickart was able to breathe again and recovered from the incident. Jones, a lineman-1st class in Winnie, had learned the Heimlich maneuver during safety training at work.

Later that same month, as Dawn Aytes made a last late-night check on her two children, she noticed the youngest, Casey, had suffered some kind of seizure and stopped breathing. She called to her husband, David, to help. David used mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to restore his son's



David, Dawn and Casey Aytes.

breathing and soon an ambulance arrived to take Casey to the hospital. The elder Aytes, a lineman-3rd class in Orange, applied safety training he, too, learned at Gulf States.

In presenting each man with the President's Lifesaving Award, Norman Lee credited



Norman Lee and Jim Jones

their quick action with saving a life of another. "We can see the value of first aid and CPR training that the company provides," commented Lee, "through these events, and others like them." He urged all employees to participate in safety training and apply the knowledge they learn.



Lum selected "Woman of the Year"

Betty Joe Lum was chosen as "Woman of the Year" by the Spindletop Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) in Beaumont. The award is presented yearly to an outstanding chapter member. ABWA is a national organization which promotes professional, educational, cultural and social advancement of women.

Lum, a compensation associate in Beaumont's Human Resources, has been with Gulf States for 36 years.

◀ Betty Joe Lum displays her ABWA plaque. She stands near flowers given to her by co-workers to celebrate her special achievement.

David Brawner, master repairman ▶ at Nelson Coal, holds the sootblower tool he designed.

Employees staff booth at fair

Gulf States participated in the Greater Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce's "Star Studded Business and Trade Fair," which was held at the civic center in March.

Staffing the Gulf States' booth during the weekend fair were Leonard Gaspard, supervisor-consumer services; John Hodges, senior consumer services representative; Sheri Kysiak and John Tarver, both economic development specialists.

According to *Plain Talks* correspondent Barbara Broussard, the event was co-sponsored by the Chamber and KBMT-TV. She credits Tass Young, district service representative in Mid-County, with setting up the attractive GSU display.



Brawner devises time-saving tool

David Brawner submitted a winning idea to the Employee Suggestion Program and became \$500 richer for his efforts.

Brawner, a master repairman at Nelson Coal Station, designed a tool that will check the blow pressure on soot blowers. Previously, this task was done by removing the poppet valve, which sometimes causes thread damage to the valve. The new device will save time and money while eliminating potential damage to company property.

Lake Charles Line Dept.



Scott White (far left), apprentice-T&D Department, and Greg Lanthier, lineman-2nd class, pause to greet Pete McCrosky.

Communication important

by T.J. Reyes

A typical day at work for Pete McCrosky just doesn't exist.

"No two days are ever alike," comments the assistant general line supervisor on the daily variety of his work. As he speaks, the radio in his truck cackles with activity. Earlier in the day, a summer storm swept over Lake Charles, leaving behind a busy afternoon for the Line Department. But the local dispatcher, along with McCrosky and his supervisor, Dudley Clarke, met the flood of calls such storms bring as a team, directing the efforts of available crews.

Thomas K. McCrosky Jr., better known as "Pete" to his co-workers, began his GSU career almost 33 years ago as a helper in the Lake Charles Line Department. Now, in his present position, he oversees seven overhead line crews in an area roughly encompassing everything between the Calcasieu River and the town of Iowa.

But the time spent "working my way through the ranks" gives McCrosky a certain empathy toward the crews he helps to supervise. "I think the most

important thing I've learned is the importance of communicating with each other," he says. "We can't do anything, not even work safely, without communication."

McCrosky knows the importance of being prepared mentally to work. "If someone has a problem," says McCrosky, "we've got to talk it out so it isn't on that person's mind all day. Line work requires complete attention so it's important to resolve problems and clear the air."

McCrosky's co-workers agree that he's always willing to "talk things over." That's one reason why his supervisors enlisted his help with the Employee Advisory Service (EAS), and now he serves as EAS chairman for the Lake Charles Division. In Lake Charles, the EAS boasts an extraordinary record; every GSUer who has entered the local rehabilitation center has satisfactorily completed the 28-day program. His supervisor, Dudley Clarke, general line supervisor, credits that success story to McCrosky's efforts. "We're lucky in Lake Charles," Clarke points out, "because we have Pete to head our EAS."



Above: McCrosky speaks with Bob Stewart, utility foreman-line, and Ed Davis, lineman-1st class, while the crew in the background continues work.

The assistant general line supervisor believes the safety aspect alone makes the investment in EAS worthwhile. "Our crews need clear heads to do their work," he adds, "and that's where EAS can help."

McCrosky and his wife, Sybil, have three sons — Donald, who is a test foreman at Nelson Coal; Kurt, a supervisor at Damson Oil; and Ronald, who is stationed in Boston while in the U.S. Navy — and seven grandchildren.

Being a parent has helped McCrosky both as a supervisor and as an EAS advisor. "Sometimes, I have to make unpopular decisions," says McCrosky, "but I do what I think is best, and go on from there." And his concern for his fellow employees is evident, too. "You'd help your family when they need it," he says. "I guess I consider the people I work with just another part of my family."



Division Vice President Jim Moss (left) discusses entries with art show committee members Fred Gilbert and Doris Bodden.

Demers steals show

by Susan Gilley

Armand Demers, a relay foreman based at the Government Street office, was the all-around winner during the recent Baton Rouge Division Art & Hobby Show.

Not only did Demers win 1st and 2nd place in the paintings-water media category, but one of his watercolors was also named "best of show" by the judges and voted "the people's choice" by those who viewed the entries.

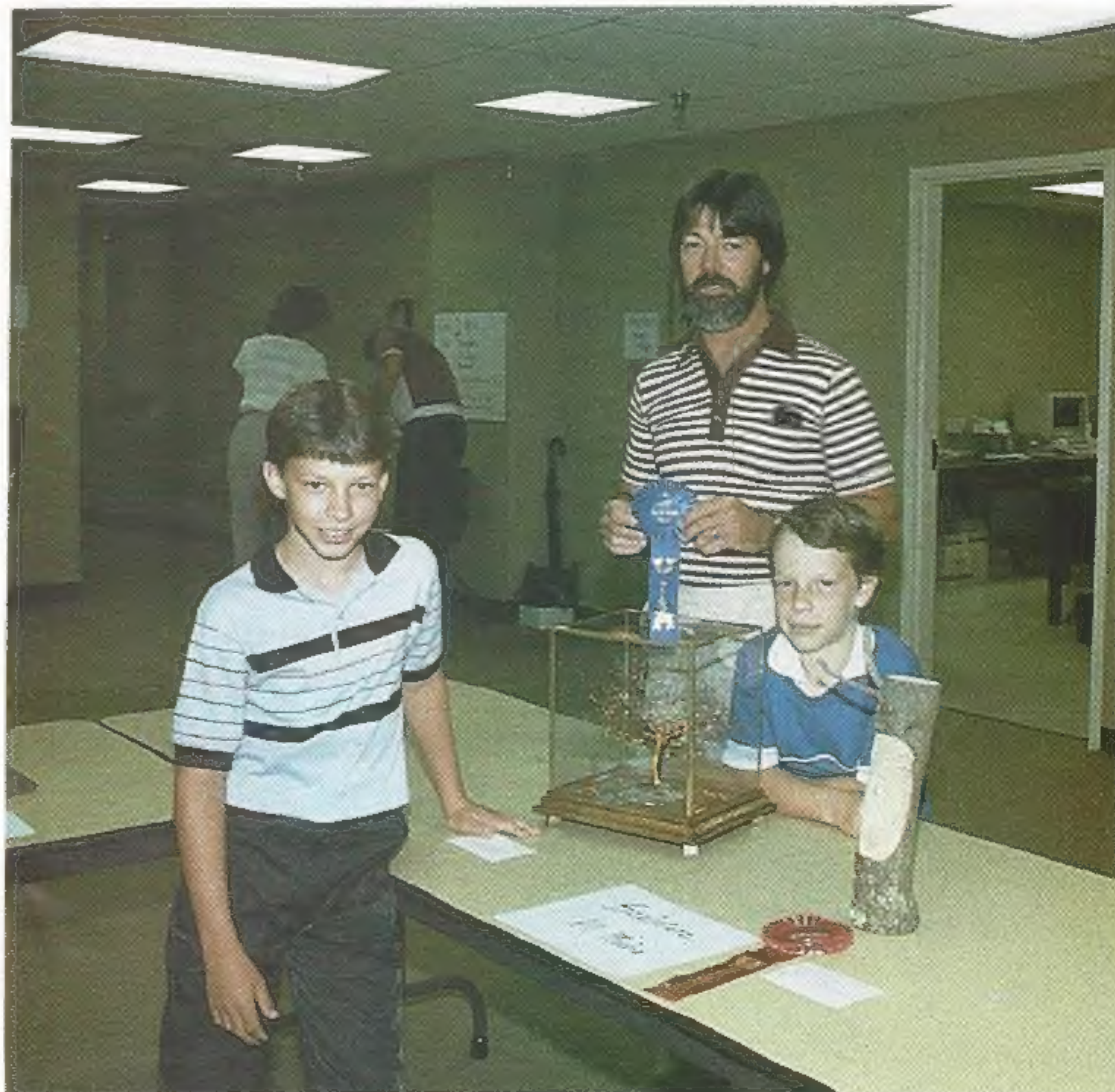
His top entry was entitled "Welham Plantation Home."



Armand Demers displays his winning entry.



John Barnes of Willow Glen drew this winning entry.



Sons Chris (in front) and Tommy admire their dad's (Joe Reine's) winner.

Management audit

by Mike Rodgers

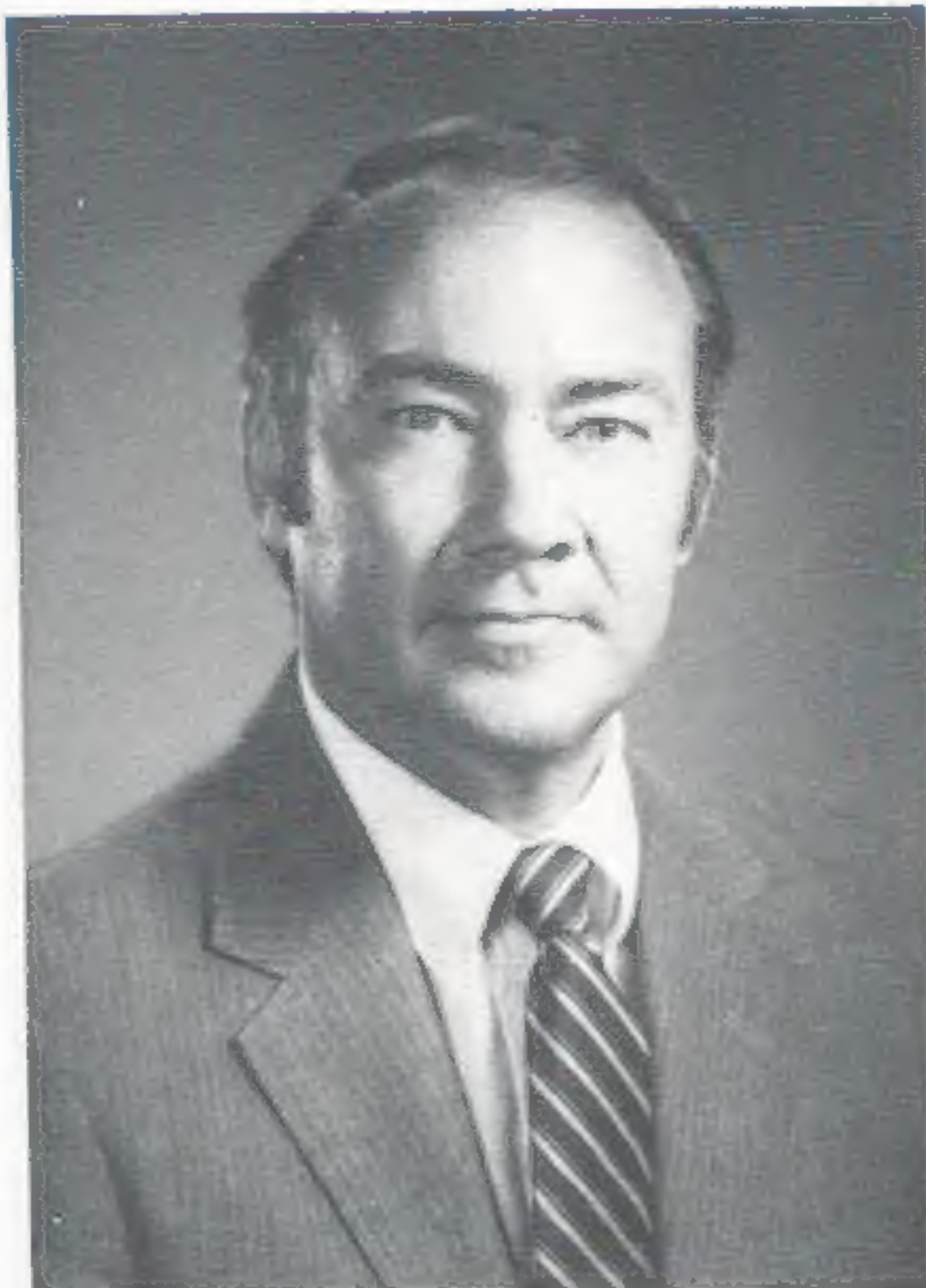
This spring, the Public Utility Commission of Texas ordered GSU to undergo a management audit. Under Texas state regulations, utility companies are required to be audited at least once every ten years, and several other Texas utilities have already been audited. The PUCT will select the auditing firm from among eight companies that have submitted bids, but at press time, this selection has not occurred. The audit is expected to begin in late July. Mike Rodgers interviewed Dr. E. Linn Draper, vice chairman of the board, and audit project officer, about the management audit and its significance for GSU.

PLAIN TALKS: What is a management audit?

Draper: "A management audit is a comprehensive look by an outside consulting firm or expert in auditing activities at the way we do business. They look at our management practices, at the way we're organized, at our staffing level and to see if we're an efficiently-run organization. As a result of the study, they will observe things we do well and make suggestions as to ways we can improve our activities."

PLAIN TALKS: What is the company's reaction to the audit?

Draper: "We're pleased that we're going to have an audit. We



Dr. E. Linn Draper

believe we are a well-managed company. We believe this will provide an opportunity to demonstrate not only to the commission but to our customers that an outside organization looking at us in an impartial way will judge that we are well-managed. We further believe that it will be good in the sense that it gives us some suggestions on ways we can do things better, more efficiently and reduce costs. So I think it's a wonderful opportunity for us to show the world that we are a well-managed company."

PLAIN TALKS: How long will the audit take?

Draper: "The auditors are to report to the commission by the

first of December. During that period, sometimes the auditors will be present; sometimes they won't. Basically, we should expect to see a great deal of activity from them from the first of August to the first of December."

PLAIN TALKS: How will the audit affect the individual employee in the performance of his or her job?

Draper: "In a general sense it will affect many employees because we will be asked to submit a variety of types of information and many employees will be asked to either produce it from their files or develop it for the auditors. It will mean an increased workload on those people who are asked for information. As far as the way we do our jobs, it is possible that after the audit, there will be a change in some of our procedures, the way we're organized, the way we do business. But the principal direct impact on most employees will be the requests to provide information."

PLAIN TALKS: Will this be an audit of GSU's overall performance or an appraisal of individual performance?

Draper: "It's an overall audit. It's not only overall in the sense that it looks at many employees, it is a comprehensive audit. Every aspect of our business is subject to investigation. Even though it was ordered by the Public Utility Commission of Texas, the auditors will also be

"It's a wonderful opportunity for us to show ... we are a well-managed company."
— Linn Draper

looking at the operation of our Louisiana power plants and some of the division operations in Louisiana because we do a lot of business there. It will not be an audit of individual performances. In other words, when the audit report is written, individuals will not be mentioned by name."

PLAIN TALKS: Will the auditors be talking to a large group of employees?

Draper: "Although each auditing firm conducts its business differently, we can expect that all the officers and managers will be spoken to so that we will have a broad representation in a horizontal slice across the top of the company. Also, it is quite likely that they will take a few vertical slices, going from top to bottom in the organization in specific departments to find out what individuals do, what procedures they follow, how they relate to those they work for and to those who work for them. So I would expect that there will be a substantial number of employees who are spoken to by the auditors and I hope that everyone will be fully cooperative. This is an opportunity for us, and we should view the auditors as people who will tell our good story."

PLAIN TALKS: What will they be looking for?

Draper: "They will be looking at the way we are managed, at the way we are organized, at the way we are staffed, whether we do things efficiently, whether we



could do them in a better way, whether we could organize ourselves to do things in a more efficient way and thereby reduce costs. So it will be a basic look at the way Gulf States Utilities does business.

PLAIN TALKS: What happens after the auditors finish auditing GSU?

Draper: "They will prepare a report that will probably have recommendations for modifications in the way we are doing our business. We will be obligated to respond to that report and each specific recommendation will require a reply. For those that we agree to and that common sense says we should adopt, we will form an action plan and implement. I suspect that we will disagree

with some and will provide a good reason for that disagreement. Our response to the final report will most likely be required within a few months after it is issued. We anticipate that we then will have periodic reports to the Public Utility Commission, about once a quarter, on our progress implementing those things to which we mutually agreed."

PLAIN TALKS: How can the results of an audit affect a future rate case?

Draper: "One of the things that will come out of the audit is an overall picture of the company and whether or not we are well-managed. To the extent that we are found to be well-managed, even though it has no direct bearing on the rate case, I think it can't help be anything but influential. If we are viewed as a good company that is well-organized and has its business in order, it is bound to inure to our benefit in rate cases."

"On the other hand, if we are found to be a poorly organized company, that also will be observed by the commission and the commission staff, and that will work to our detriment. We should take advantage of this opportunity with the understanding that we need to do our best. We are confident that the auditors will discover what we believe to be true; that Gulf States is an efficient company and one that operates in the best interests of its customers."



Somewhere in the Caribbean — GSUer Sheryll Gregg and her husband, Jonathan, pose with their waiter, Dino, aboard the Song of America. The cruise included stops in San Juan, Nassau and St. Thomas for the Port Arthur couple.

Yosemite National Park — While vacationing in California, Port Arthur employee Rufus Mier, along with his wife, Dot, and son, Artie, took in the scenic sights of Yosemite.



Lisse, The Netherlands — During a vacation, Hebert and her mother, Edith, admiring the Service Center employee also in Germany.



Sherdeen, Scotland — When the tourist bug bites Sabine Station employee Bonnie Duval, a frequent traveling companion is fellow GSUer Myra Ponthier. Myra, who works in Zachary, snapped this photo of Bonnie when the two visited Europe.



Ochos Rios, Jamaica — It was a family gathering when Port Arthur Division employee Kathleen Fuller and her husband, her two sisters and their husbands vacationed together for a week in Jamaica. This group shot was taken in the water at Dunn's River Falls.

Wish you were

by T. J. Reyes

It's about this time of year that one particular employee benefit becomes very popular — vacation time. Although vacation days are often taken for granted, they are a benefit that will add operating costs for the company in 1985 and, therefore, an expensive part of every employee's total compensation.

With the arrival of warm weather, some GSUers begin to feel the symptoms of that com-

here!

mon summer condition known as wanderlust. Usually curable, of course, by packing a suitcase and taking to the road.

A casual survey would reveal that a variety of destinations beckons vacationing Gulf Staters. Some enjoy seeing the sights within the United States while others heed the call of distant shores. There's not enough room to show everyone's favorite vacation snapshots, but these two pages represent a sampling of ports of call both near and far.



On a European trip, GSUer Cindy poses in the tulip fields near Lisse. The Beautiful Switzerland, Belgium and



Orlando, Florida — Port Arthur employee Brenda Broussard and her husband, Rodney, chose Epcot Center for a backdrop in this photograph taken while visiting Florida.

Black Hills, South Dakota — D.W. "Don" Smith and his wife, Tella, pause in front of Mt. Rushmore to capture this vacation memory while visiting the Black Hills last summer. Don works in Port Arthur Division.



Oahu, Hawaii — Far away from his Lake Charles office, Gulf Stater Calvin Jaetzold and his wife, Pat, enjoy the lush greenery of Waimea Falls Park, located on the Hawaiian island of Oahu.

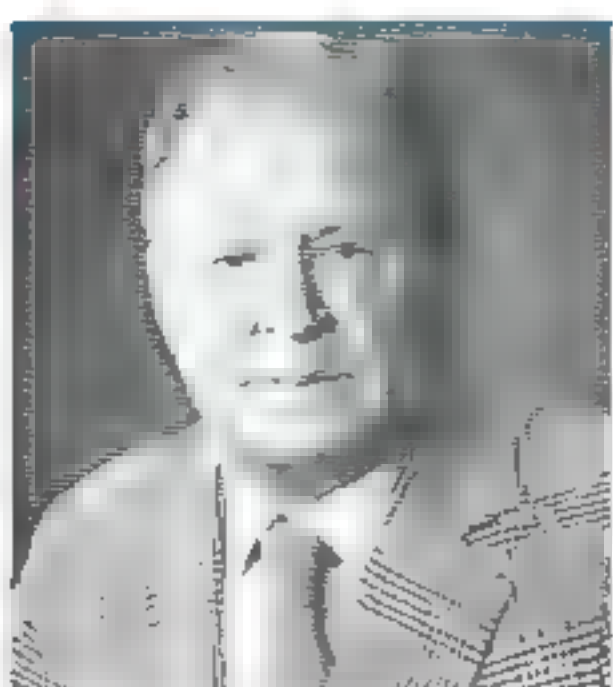


Washington, D.C. — The U.S. Capitol Building provides an interesting background for this vacation photo of Gulf Staters Carliss and Les Jones, during their visit to our nation's capitol. Carliss works in Edison Plaza's Materials Management while Les is an employee at the Beaumont Service Center.



SERVICE AWARDS

40 years



James O. Coplen
Electric T&D
Silsbee



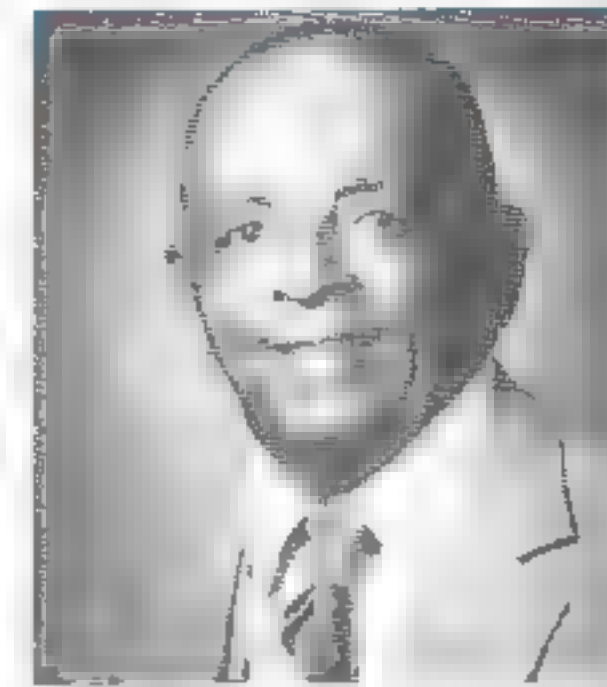
Boyd S. Esworth
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge



Oray Hernandez
Electric T&D
Lafayette



Walter W. Jones
Engr. Svcs.
Baton Rouge



Leroy J. Lewis
Electric T&D
Beaumont



M.C. McCormick Jr.
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge

30 years



John R. Bordelon
Sys. Mktg. and
Cons. Serv.
Beaumont



Harrison J. Carlin
Electric T&D
Lafayette



Alvin L. Dragg
Electric T&D
Gonzales



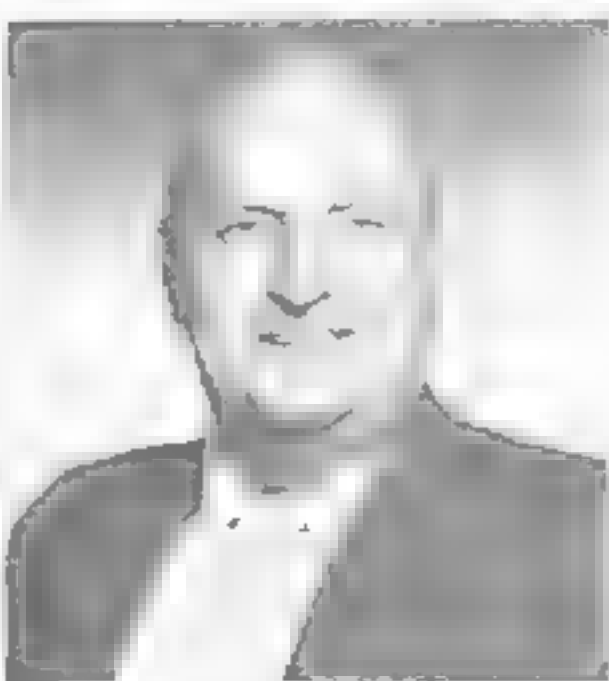
Denis Dugas Jr.
Div. Operations
Lafayette



G.W. Henderson
Electric T&D
Denham Springs



Olen R. Jones
Div. Accounting
Beaumont



John L. Kirkwood
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge



Joseph L. Manena
Electric T&D
Lake Charles



Archie L. McClure
Plant Production
Willow Glen



Sherman R. Powell
Electric T&D
Beaumont

20 years



Dolores T. Douglas
Div. Accounting
Port Arthur



Loretta M. Gilbert
Div. Accounting
Jennings



Rayford L. Grubbs
Human Resources
Port Arthur



**William E.
Harrington**
Fuel Services
Beaumont

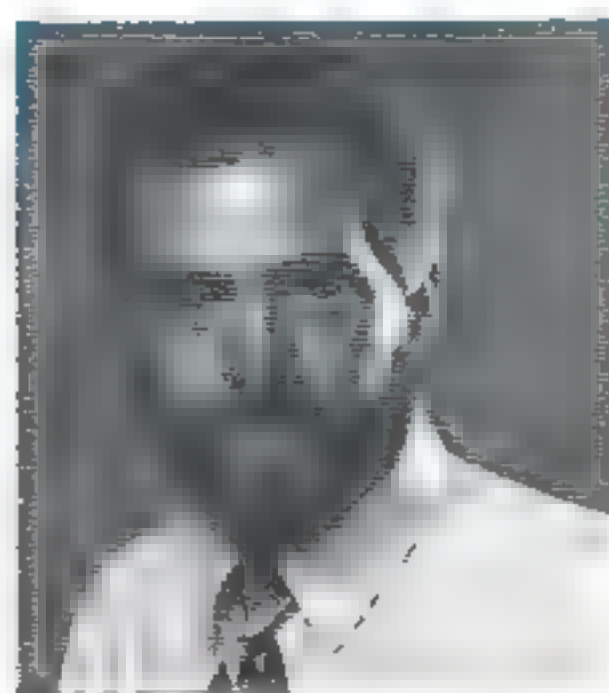


Clovis E. Harris
Plant Production
Sabine Station

10 years



Thorese L. Richert
Electric T&D
Jennings



Rodney J. Tompkins
Electric T&D
Port Arthur



Richard E. James
Actg. Services
Beaumont



George Tolliver Jr.
Electric T&D
Orange

ON THE MOVE

B

Bell, Ivy L., The Woodlands, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Bernard, Johnal II, formerly of Sabine Station, to engineering assistant, Design Engineering, Beaumont.

Bourg, Larry J., River Bend Station, to repairman-1st class/nuclear, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Bourque, Blain A., Lake Charles, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Brister, Joseph A., Lake Charles, to senior engineering assistant, Electric T&D.

C

Campo, Ronnie D., Willow Glen Station, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

Carley, Terri S., Baton Rouge, to consumer service representative, Division Marketing & Consumer Services.

Cervantes, Tony J., Beaumont, to substation mechanic-3rd class, Electric T&D.

D

Ducote, Gloria B., formerly of Baton Rouge, to storekeeper, Electric T&D, Port Allen.

Duncan, Mark D., Nelson Coal, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

F

Flynn, Charles R., Willow Glen Station, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

Fontenot, Ramona R., Lafayette, to consumer service representative, Division Marketing & Consumer Services.

Friedman, Mark C., Louisiana Station, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

G

Gillard, Bobby G. Jr., Lake Charles, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Gorham, Monroe L. Jr., Baton Rouge, to meterman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Gremillion, Michael W., Willow Glen Station, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

H

Haskett, Christopher R., Beaumont, to meterman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

J

Jacobs, Carl D., River Bend Station, to radiation

protection technician-3rd class, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Johnson, Clifford A., Gonzales, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Johnson, Willie C. Jr., Beaumont, to utility worker II, Building and Garage.

Jones, Roy K., Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

L

Lanthier, Gregory J., Lake Charles, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

M

Mattick, Mary R., Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Miller, Timothy T., Lake Charles, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

O

Orlando, Martha T., Navasota, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

P

Patin, Gregory A., Baton Rouge, to storekeeper, Electric T&D.

Powers, James D., New Caney, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

R

Rains, Roland M., Louisiana Station, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

Richard, Terry W., Sabine Station, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

Roe, Nathan W., Conroe, to substation mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

Rosales, Armando Jr., Beaumont, to utility worker II, Mail Services.

S

Smith, Andrew G., River Bend Station, to instrument control technician-1st class/nuclear, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Stehle, Cynthia R., Beaumont, to graphic technician, Reproduction.

T

Toniette, James B. Jr., Lake Charles, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

W

Watson, Linda L., Anahuac, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Capital improvements

New life for Louisiana Station

by Susan Gilley

A decade ago, Louisiana Station was a base-loaded cogeneration power plant which provided steam and electricity to industrial customers.

Today, the plant is still providing cogenerated energy to industry in the Baton Rouge area. "Megawatts are the by-product and steam is our main product," explains Vernon Blanchard, the plant's operating supervisor. However, rather than being base-loaded, the plant is in more of a low load and cycling mode of operation.

Rather than "looking back," however, Louisiana Station is getting ready for the future with a program designed to improve plant safety, reliability and efficiency.

Planning for the approximately 20 projects included in the program began about two or three years ago and included discussion with officials at Exxon, one of the plant's steam customers.

"At Louisiana Station," points out Bill Mitchell, production engineer, "capital projects are

reimbursed by our customers."

The fact that Exxon dedicated its resources to the program boosted the morale of the 156 Louisiana Station employees, who had questions about the plant's future, Mitchell asserts.

Construction of one project began in mid-1984 and completion of the final project is expected to take place in late 1986, Mitchell reports.

The various aspects of the overall program include:

- Rerouting cooling water lines from 1A Unit (already completed).

- Nitrogen blanketing system, which will help prevent corrosion in units in cold standby situations

- Installing steam heating coils in No. 9 boiler as a more efficient way of maintaining a higher state of readiness in standby boilers.

- Installing a new Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) and upgrading the controls on the old ones, which will enable the plant to reduce high-pressure steam as needed to a pressure that is usable by the customer.

- Putting in a deaerator com-

mon header to capture steam previously released to the atmosphere (already completed).

- Modifying boiler fronts for controlled boiler ignition. The present boilers at Louisiana Station are lit with a torch. With the newer, automatic system, safety will be enhanced since the equipment can be used to check for certain conditions within the boilers before firing them.

- Installing superheater assemblies to replace those in the 1,500 psi boilers — a move expected to prolong the life of the boilers.

While the capital improvements will give Louisiana Station new life, employees from other parts of the company have played important roles in the program. Most of the engineering was done by Beaumont employees, while two Willow Glen Station employees — Ronnie Paille and Lanny Harris — have been temporarily assigned to Louisiana Station to oversee the project. Actual construction is being handled by a Baton Rouge contractor.

Employees must undergo intensive training as a result of the



Two contract employees work on modifying boiler fronts for controlled boiler ignition.



Lanny Harris, outage foreman at Willow Glen Station, is temporarily on the job at Louisiana Station.

improvements. For instance, Mitchell has been following boiler safety system construction closely because he will be responsible for training employees in its use.

Equally important will be the training of maintenance employees, says John Cole, general maintenance supervisor. "The technology is far more advanced for the boiler safety system, for example," Cole notes. "We're going from a manual light-off system to an electronic system," he continues.

But Cole, Blanchard and Mitchell

are excited about the opportunities offered by the improvements to Louisiana Station.

"These are changes that will allow us to operate at low loads or intermittently without damaging the equipment or wasting fuel. A lot of these things stemmed from lessons we've learned along the way," Mitchell comments.

All of the improvements together add up to one thing, Plant Superintendent Terry Hernandez believes — "We're looking to the future."



Bill Mitchell, production engineer, says some preliminary PRV work has been done here.



Charlie Lopez (left), lead mechanical engineer, and Stephen Hagge, electrical engineer, are among Beaumont employees involved with the Louisiana Station capital improvement projects.



Ronnie Paille (left), project maintenance supervisor at Willow Glen, has been temporarily assigned to Louisiana Station. Also shown is Chris Frigo, a contractor's employee.



Allison Christine Turner

Turners add Allison Christine

Proud parents Susan and James Turner announce the addition of daughter Allison Christine to their family. The baby weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and measured 19½ inches at birth. Allison, who was born on February 13, shares her grandmother's birthday.

She was welcomed home by the Turners' twins, daughter Kelly and son Patrick. Their daddy works as a systems analyst in Edison Plaza's Computer Applications.



Rene DeBlanc (left) and Sheila Soileau celebrate DeBlanc's being named "Boss of the Day" by a Lake Charles radio station.

DeBlanc selected "Boss of the Day"

Rene DeBlanc, general superintendent of Nelson Generation, was named "Boss of the Day" by a local radio

station in Lake Charles last May. He was nominated by Sheila Soileau, former confidential records clerk at Nelson Coal, who has since transferred to River Bend Station.

Among the gifts DeBlanc received were a dinner for two at a local restaurant, a gift certificate, a balloon bouquet and an airplane ride over the city of Lake Charles.



Oddie Powell shows off his Good Friday catch.

Powell lands large-mouth bass

What had been planned as a typical holiday fishing trip turned out to be a really "Good Friday" for Oddie Powell, a planning coordinator at Nelson Coal. Friday, April 5, was the day he landed a 7-pound large-mouth bass that measured 22 inches.



Joe Ray McGrew displays his certificate of distinction from Duke University.

University honors outstanding youth

Seventh-grader Joe Ray McGrew of Willis, Texas was recognized by Duke University

for outstanding scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Duke University's Talent Identification Program (TIP) was initiated to identify and develop bright young students who score equal to or higher on the SAT than 85 percent of college-bound high school seniors. The TIP Talent Search involved more than 32,000 students in 16 states.

Joe Ray, who is the son of Western Division Safety and Health Representative Jim McGrew, received a certificate of distinction in recognition of his achievement. The youth attends C. C. Hardy Junior High School.



Fred Coppenbarger (left) and Donny Elliott were among the Gonzales employees honored for good attendance.

Attendance marked by crawfish boil

Employees in Gonzales who maintained a good attendance record last year were treated to a crawfish boil held April 16. Spouses were invited to join in honoring the following employees at the dinner: Shelby Brignac, Fred Coppenbarger, Alvin Dragg, Donny Elliott, Lloyd Engler, Charlotte Gautreau, C.P. "Bean" Gautreaux, Marvin James, Odis Jones, Johnny Prejean, Hugh Raven, Ina Smiley and Pam Thurmon.

Sandidge makes all-star team

Fifth-grader Clint Sandidge, a member of the Navasota Little Dribblers, proudly

shows off his basketball after making the Major League Basketball All-Stars. He is the 11-year-old son of Louis Sandidge, superintendent of the Navasota district.



Clint Sandidge

McKenzie chosen for award

Sam McKenzie was honored as area governor of the year in District 68 of Toastmasters International. This award is given to one of the district's 12 area governors based on outstanding service and exceptional leadership. District Governor Richard Brown presented McKenzie with a plaque at the group's annual conference in Alexandria, Louisiana.

McKenzie, a 47-year veteran of GSU, works at River Bend as a training coordinator-GET.



Sam McKenzie displays his Toastmasters' award.



Sarah Ruth Brawner

Brawners announce daughter's birth

Carolyn and David Brawner of Sulphur are the new parents of Sarah Ruth, born Dec. 11, 1984. She weighed in at 7 pounds, 8 ounces and measured 19 inches. Sarah's dad is a master repairman at Nelson Coal Station.



Dolph McKowen, district service representative, (left) enjoys the slight of hand as performed by magician Ted Lasley.

Group celebrates perfect attendance

Northern District employees in Baton Rouge Division who did not miss over eight hours for sickness last year were treated to a special supper. Entertainment for the evening was provided by Ted Lasley, a Baton Rouge magician. The dinner was held last May at the Zachary Service Center.

Mangham feted with baby shower

Marolon Mangham was honored by Willow Glen co-workers at a baby shower held last April. Mangham, who is supervisor of accounting and administration at the plant, received a baby's play pen among her gifts.



Marolon Mangham takes a closer look at the play pen given to her by co-workers.

Holly Michelle joins a Gulf States family

When Holly Michelle Davis was born on April 16, she weighed 9 pounds, 7 ounces and measured 21½ inches. Proud mom Vicki Davis is a meter reader in Conroe. But the GSU connection doesn't end there. The baby's grandfather, Leo Adams, is a storeroom foreman in Conroe.



Holly Michelle Davis



Lafayette employees enjoy their annual crawfish boil in this photo taken by Denis Dugas.

Lafayette hosts annual crawfish boil

The annual Lafayette crawfish boil was held May 24. According to *Plain Talks* correspondent Helen Kennedy, about 150 people attended the annual feast where over 1,000 pounds of crawfish were boiled.



Sheila Soileau holds the cake served at her going-away luncheon.

Luncheon marks Soileau transfer

A going-away luncheon was held for Sheila Soileau at Nelson Coal last May before her transfer to River Bend Station. Her friends at Nelson Coal presented her with a corsage and a cake decorated with River Bend's logo. She also received a cordless telephone so she can "keep in touch."

Soileau will serve as an employee relations associate in her new position.

Friends celebrate Montgomery's birthday

Gary Montgomery's co-workers in Conroe didn't let his 27th birthday pass unnoticed. The engineering assistant received a floral arrangement and balloon bouquet to commemorate the special day.



Co-workers sent Gary Montgomery these balloons and flowers for his birthday.

Molbert surprised with baby shower

Michelle Molbert was the surprised guest of honor at a baby shower when she returned to work after the birth of her first child. Among the gifts she received were a car seat and a wall hanging.

Molbert, who is a stores clerk in Lafayette, named her new daughter Jamie Michelle. Jamie was born on March 25, 1985.



Michelle Molbert admires baby gifts from her co-workers.



Western Division retiree Frank Robinson

Robinson speaks at employee banquet

Western Division retiree Frank Robinson was guest speaker at the Beaumont Division 1985 Service Awards Banquet. Robinson, who served as Huntsville district superintendent, retired from GSU in 1981.

Robinson, also a past president of the Western Division Sideliners, fills retirement time as a humorous speaker and a licensed real estate agent. Prior to his retirement, Robinson worked at GSU for 43 years.



Robert Cochran (center) receives his safety plaque from Gene Russell (left) and Dale Karaff.

Retirement party given for Cochran

Robert L. Cochran, who retired May 1 from Neches Station, was given a retirement party after nearly 39 years with Gulf States.

Among the gifts presented to Cochran, who was a mechanic helper before his retirement, was a plaque for working without a single lost-time accident during his career.

Wiley honored upon retirement

Reba A. Wiley was the guest of honor at a retirement party given by her co-workers in Orange. Ed Hutchins, Orange district superintendent, presented her with a plaque for completing her 39 years at GSU without a single lost-time accident.

Before her April 1 retirement, Wiley was a senior clerk in the Orange office.

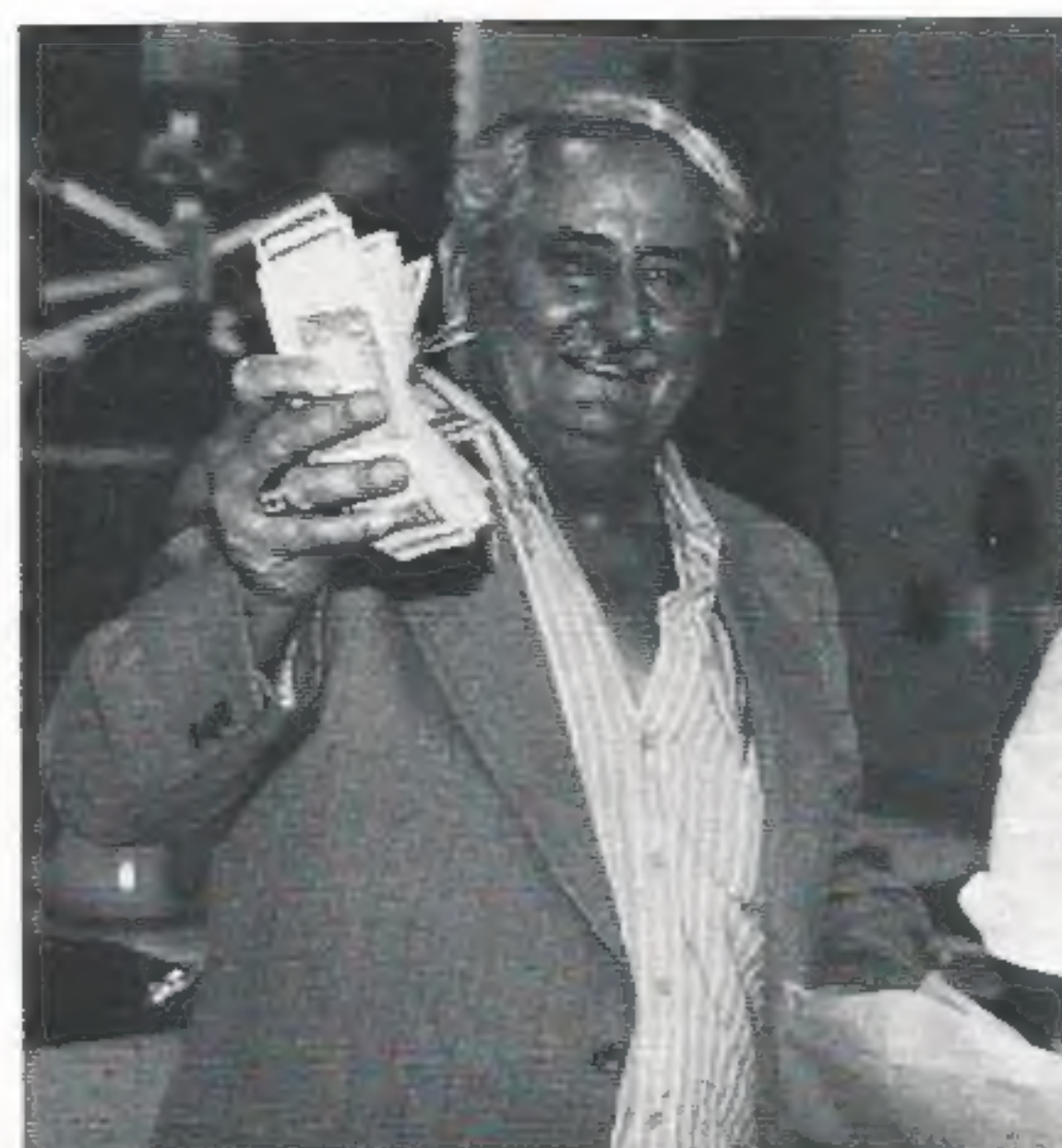


Reba Wiley (left) receives a plaque from Ed Hutchins.

In memoriam

Thomas D. Williams, 66, of Jennings died on June 3. Funeral services for the Shreveport native were held in the Mt. Triumph Baptist Church. Prior to his retirement from GSU, Williams was a utility worker in Jennings.

He is survived by his wife, Rose Mae G. Williams of Jennings; two daughters, Martha E. Beard of Plainfield, N.J. and Claudette Sue Byrom of Dallas, Texas; and two grandsons.



John Vice at his retirement party.

Vice retires after 39 years

Friends and co-workers of John I. Vice gathered to honor him upon his retirement last June. At the party, held June 6 in the Port Arthur main office auditorium, Vice was presented with a plaque for completing his career without a lost-time accident.

Vice, who was a division substation operator prior to his retirement, also was presented a gift of cash at the party.

Retirees return from Western trip

Beaumont Sideliners logged over 3,000 miles in their latest adventure, this time traveling through Texas, New Mexico and Colorado. According to retiree correspondent Henry Zahn, the group chartered a bus to tour the many historic towns, museums, Indian ruins and beautiful mountains along the way.

Zahn reports one highlight of the trip was the breakfast served at an authentic working ranch, the 15,000-acre Christian spread which borders Palo Duro Canyon.

The trip, arranged by Al and Dorothy Bowen, included the reknowned musical production at Palo Duro Canyon, where the group was entertained by the "Romance of Panhandle History."

Summer fun: landsailing

by T.J. Reyes

If you haven't heard of land-sailing, you probably haven't met James Braus yet. This Sabine Station employee and his land-sailers are a common sight around area parking lots, local beaches and other open spaces.

A landsailer is a recreational vehicle that is powered by harnessing available wind with its 48 square foot sail. The sail is mounted on a body that looks like a go-cart, minus the engine and other incidentals such as brakes. But, Braus explains, releasing the ropes to the sail stops its harnessing action, bringing the vehicle to a halt.

Landsailing, according to Braus, is a family activity. His wife, Sissy, and their two child-

ren, Melanie and Bubba, were so enthusiastic about the family's first vehicle that they soon acquired several more. Braus says with a grin, "I had to get more sailers so I could ride, too."

Braus points out the lightweight aluminum components make the sailer easy to set up and disassemble quickly. "If you only have one hour, you can land sail," Braus says, adding that one hour of sailing only whets your appetite for more.

So the next time you pass a parking lot full of colorful sails racing along with the wind, take a closer look. You just might see James Braus and his family enjoying one of their favorite pastimes.



Braus challenges a friend to a race.



James Braus (right) and his son, Bubba, enjoy landsailing as a family activity.



Alone or with a group, landsailing is a fun sport.

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